

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information communication device which supports information exchange and fostering of human relations between a plurality of users, comprising:

a radio communication unit which transmits and receives radio communication data;

a metadata storage unit which stores metadata relating to a user of the communication device; and

a central control unit which manages the storage of metadata in said metadata storage unit, wherein said central control unit

partitions said metadata storage unit by security level and category,

stores metadata received through said radio communication unit in a corresponding partition of the metadata storage unit based on matching the received metadata with a security level and/or category predetermined by the user ~~in an area matching in terms of security level and/or category~~, and[[,]]

supplies, in response to an external access request, ~~takes metadata out of a storage area matching in terms of~~ from the metadata storage unit that matches a security level available to the external access request or that matches the security level available and and/or category requested ~~and supplies the metadata~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The information communication device according to Claim 1, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log ~~stating that the user visits a place and what the place is~~ providing information on locations visited by the user.

Claim 3 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a user input unit for the user of the device to write metadata directly into said metadata storage unit.

Claim 4 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, wherein

said central control unit sets a higher security level for data transmitted through a relatively secure communication path and a lower security level for other transmitted data.

Claim 5 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a virtual person growing means which grows a virtual person corresponding to the user based on the user's history information accumulated in said metadata storage unit.

Claim 6 (Original): The information communication device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a format setting unit which converts the format of metadata taken out of said metadata storage unit as requested by a requesting party.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for information communication which supports information exchange and fostering of human relations, comprising:

receiving metadata relating to a user of the communication device via a radio communication using an information communication device;

storing the received metadata in a partitioned storage unit of the information communication device based on matching the received metadata with a security level and/or category predetermined by the user; and

supplying, in response to an external access request, metadata from the partitioned metadata storage unit that matches a security level available to the external access request or that matches the security level available and category requested, wherein

the metadata is stored in the partition of the storage unit based on the security level and/or category of the metadata

~~a metadata storing step in which metadata acquired by radio communication is stored in an area matching in terms of security level and/or category in metadata memory; and~~

~~a metadata reading step in which, in response to an external access request, metadata is taken out of a storage area matching in terms of security level and/or category in metadata memory and supplied.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log ~~stating that the user visits a place and what the place is~~ providing information on locations visited by the user.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, wherein

in said metadata storing step, data directly written by the user is stored.

Claim 10 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a security level setting step in which a higher security level is set for data transmitted through a relatively secure communication path and a lower security level is set for other transmitted data.

Claim 11 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a virtual person growing step in which a virtual person corresponding to the user is grown based on the user's history information accumulated in said metadata memory.

Claim 12 (Original): The method for information communication according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a format setting step in which the format of metadata taken out of said metadata memory is converted as requested by a requesting party.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An information exchange and human relation fostering support system for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations between a plurality of users in on the virtual world, comprising:

a metadata transmitting means which provides user terminals with metadata of ~~respective~~ that corresponds to a security level and at least one category ~~here and there at different locations~~ in the ~~real physical~~ world;

a metadata acquiring means which ~~takes~~ retrieves metadata ~~matching in terms of that matches the security level and category of the request from user terminals out of user terminals~~;

a matching means which performs matching among pieces of metadata acquired from two or more user terminals; and

a result of matching presenting means which presents the result of the matching to the user terminals from which the matched pieces of metadata was acquired.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The information exchange and human relation fostering support system according to Claim 13, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log ~~stating that the user visits a place and what the place is~~ providing information on locations visited by the user.

Claim 15 (Original): The information exchange and human relation fostering support system according to Claim 13, wherein

said metadata acquiring means acquires metadata in accordance with the highest security level in those set by the users concerned.

Claim 16 (Original): An information exchange and human relation fostering supporting method for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations on the virtual world, comprising:

a metadata transmitting step in which metadata of respective security level and category is provided to user terminals here and there in the real world;

a metadata acquiring step in which metadata matching in terms of security level and category is taken out of user terminals;

a matching step in which matching is performed among pieces of metadata acquired from two or more user terminals; and

a result of matching presenting step in which the result of the matching is presented.

Claim 17 (Original): The information exchange and human relation fostering support method according to Claim 16, wherein

said metadata is information in the form of metadata, equivalent to a log stating that the user visits a place and what the place is.

Claim 18 (Original): The information exchange and human relation fostering support method according to Claim 16, wherein

in said metadata acquiring step, metadata is acquired in accordance with the highest security level in those set by the users concerned.

Claim 19 (Original): A computer program which is written in a computer-readable format so that information communication for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations is executed on a computer system, the program comprising:

a metadata storing step in which metadata acquired by radio communication is stored in an area matching in terms of security level and/or category in metadata memory; and

a metadata reading step in which, in response to an external access request, metadata is taken out of a storage area matching in terms of security level and/or category in metadata memory and supplied.

Claim 20 (Original): A computer program which is written in a computer-readable format so that processing for supporting information exchange and fostering of human relations on the virtual world is executed on a computer system, the program comprising:

a metadata transmitting step in which metadata of respective security level and category is provided to user terminals here and there in the real world;

a metadata acquiring step in which metadata matching in terms of security level and category is taken out of user terminals;

a matching step in which matching is performed among pieces of metadata acquired from two or more user terminals; and

a result of matching presenting step in which the result of the matching is presented.